Ban on use of synthetic pesticides

†1886. SHRI B.P. SINGHAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to ban the use of synthetic pesticides such as chloropyriphos, residue of which has been found in the water;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether harmful effect of neem pesticide has been found in Australia, and if so, whether it has been examined in India also; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (d) The Registration Committee constituted under Section 5 of the Insecticide Act, 1968 registers pesticides for use on food crops in the country only after satisfying itself regarding data on chemistry, bioefficacy, residues of the pesticides and their safety to human health, animals and environment. Therefore, the registered pesticide if used as per the guidelines of the Registration Committee, do not pose any risk to human health and environment. Though these pesticides are registered after thorough scrutiny and investigations, sometimes negative information on certain pesticide come to the knowledge of the Government during the courses of their continued use. These pesticides are reviewed by the Government from time to time through the Registration Committee or Experts Committee.

Chloropyriphos is registered under the Insecticide Act, 1968 for use in the country. It has been reviewed for its continued use or otherwise by an Experts Committee in the year 2000. Based on the recommendations of the Expert Committee, the Government has allowed the use of Chloropyriphos in the country.

Neem based pesticide formulations are also registered for use in the country by the Registration Committee after assessing their safety to human health and animals.